

TERMINATING DESIGNATION OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA, THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA, AND THE REPUBLIC OF MALI AS BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES UNDER THE AGOA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-70)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 506A(a)(3)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(3)(B)), I am providing advance notification of my intent to terminate the designation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Ethiopia), the Republic of Guinea (Guinea), and the Republic of Mali (Mali) as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

I am taking this step as Ethiopia, Guinea, and Mali are not in compliance with the eligibility requirements of section 104 of the AGOA—in Ethiopia, for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; in Guinea, for not having established, or not making continual progress toward establishing, the protection of the rule of law and of political pluralism; and in Mali, for not having established, or not making continual progress toward establishing, the protection of the rule of law, political pluralism, and internationally recognized worker rights, and for not addressing gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

Despite intensive engagement between the United States and the Governments of Ethiopia, Guinea, and Mali, these governments have failed to address United States concerns about their noncompliance with the AGOA eligibility criteria.

Accordingly, I intend to terminate the designation of Ethiopia, Guinea, and Mali as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries under the AGOA as of January 1, 2022. I will continue to assess whether the Governments of Ethiopia, Guinea, and Mali are making continual progress toward meeting the AGOA eligibility requirements.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 2, 2021.

□ 1745

RECOGNIZING KATHY ARO

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathy Aro for her 17 years of service to the families of southeastern Michigan through her work at the Accounting Aid Society.

Kathy has led the Accounting Aid Society in fulfilling its mission to help put the residents of southeast Michigan on the pathway to financial stability.

Her leadership has been a catalyst for massive growth of Accounting Aid Society's free income tax assistance program, which puts hard-earned dollars back into the pockets of many of our vulnerable families.

Under Kathy's leadership, Accounting Aid Society has expanded its programming to include Accounting Aid Academy, which provides basic small business guidance and financial coaching.

In short, Kathy has been an outstanding community leader, cultivating Accounting Aid Society into a trusted community partner.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Kathy's outstanding contributions to the communities of Michigan's 13th Congressional District as we wish her well in her retirement.

SIKH 1984 VIOLENCE 37TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the November 1984 anti-Sikh riots in India, also commonly referred to as the "Sikh Massacre."

Sikhism, which originated in Punjab, India, saw its followers first begin immigrating to our shores nearly 130 years ago. The Sikh community is one of the largest in the world, with roughly 30 million followers globally and more than half a million here in the United States.

The massacre against the Sikhs began in the capital territory of Delhi and a number of other major Indian cities on November 1, 1984, following the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The first Sikh life was tragically taken early that morning in East Delhi.

The violence, which lasted 3 days, resulted in thousands upon thousands of casualties among the Sikh community. In the aftermath of the massacre, it was reported that nearly 20,000 were forced to flee the city, leading to countless displaced people.

Madam Speaker, remembering the Sikh Massacre is a pivotal and historic step in the fight for justice and accountability for the families of all those victims.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, today the House just passed the Senate substitute for our bill, the bipartisan H.R. 164, and it now heads to President Biden's desk. It helps right an injustice.

Historically, land has been held in trust for Tribes by the Federal Government, as is the case for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. In modern times, this has become a cumbersome process.

The bill itself was necessary to allow the Seminole Tribe to engage in certain land transactions that were interpreted as necessary by a congressional bill, by the Indian Non-Intercourse Act, so this would allow them to finally engage in those land transactions.

It is critical for the Seminoles and other Tribes to be able to conduct their affairs without having to go to Congress every time. Comprehensive reform is needed in the future, and we appreciate the support in the House today to send this very good bill to President Biden.

LOCAL BUSINESS TAXES, REGULATIONS, AND REDUCED WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this evening with a number of my Republican colleagues to speak about the small business economy.

Small business owners have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic as they are still reeling from the Democrat-induced State and local shutdowns and economic downturn. At a time when Main Street USA has been focused on recovering from the health and economic effects of the pandemic, they are facing multiple challenges created by the Biden administration and congressional Democrats.

Given our country's unprecedented labor shortage, skyrocketing inflation, and supply chain crisis, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and startups alike are forced to bear the brunt of the Democrats' failed economic policies. In the midst of this economic storm, small businesses should be given the tools to recover, but now they are also being threatened with major tax increases and more burdensome regulations.

Since President Biden took office, we have seen multiple Democratic proposals that include increasing taxes on small businesses. Make no mistake: Tax hikes, no matter their form and fashion, will negatively impact Main Street USA.